- 1 - 09cv0556

Plaintiff filed suit on March 18, 2009 (Doc. No. 1,) and filed a first amended complaint on May 4, 2009. Defendant filed an answer on May 26, 2009. On July 24, 2009, Plaintiff filed the instant motion for leave to file a SAC. Plaintiff has attached the proposed SAC to his motion. Defendant has not filed a response to Plaintiff's motion. The Court finds the motion suitable for disposition without oral argument pursuant to Local Civil Rule 7.1(d)(1).

DISCUSSION

I. Legal Standard

Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 15, "a party may amend the party's pleading only by leave of court or by written consent of the adverse party; and leave shall be freely given when justice so requires." Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2) (2009). "In the absence of any apparent or declared reason—such as undue delay, bad faith or dilatory motive on the part of the movant, repeated failure to cure deficiencies by amendments previously allowed, undue prejudice to the opposing party by virtue of allowance of the amendment, futility of amendment, etc.—the leave sought should, as the rules require, be 'freely given.'" Eminence Capital, LLC v. Aspeon, Inc., 316 F.3d 1048, 1052 (9th Cir. 2003) (quoting Forman v. Davis, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962)). However, "not all of the factors merit equal weight ... it is the consideration of prejudice to the opposing party that carries the greatest weight." Id. at 1052. "Absent prejudice, or a strong showing of any of the remaining Forman factors, there exists a *presumption* under Rule 15(a) in favor of granting leave to amend."

Eminence Capital, 316 F.3d at 1052 (emphasis in original). The decision of whether or not to grant leave to amend under Rule 15(a) is within the sound discretion of the district court.

California v. Neville Chem. Co., 358 F.3d 661, 673 (9th Cir. 2004).

II. Analysis

The touchstone of the Rule 15(a) inquiry is whether the proposed amendment would unfairly prejudice the defendant. Eminence Capital, 316 F.3d at 1052. The party who opposes amendment bears the burden of demonstrating the prejudice. DCD Programs, Ltd. v. Leighton, 833 F.2d 183, 187 (9th Cir. 1987). In the present case, Defendant has not opposed Plaintiff's motion, and therefore has made no demonstration of prejudice. Similarly, there has been no strong showing that Plaintiff has requested the amendment in bad faith, that Plaintiff has unduly delayed

- 2 - 09cv0556

1	in seeking to amend the complaint, or that the amendment would be futile. Moreover, Plaintiff has
2	only sought to amend the complaint once before, so there has been no "repeated failure to cure
3	deficiencies" in the complaint. Absent these showings, there is a presumption in favor of granting
4	Plaintiff leave to amend under Rule 15(a). Eminence Capital, 316 F.3d at 1052. Accordingly, the
5	Court grants Plaintiff's motion.
6	CONCLUSION
7	For the reasons set forth herein, the Court GRANTS Plaintiff's motion for leave to file a
8	SAC. Plaintiff shall file his SAC no later than Friday October 2, 2009.
9	
10	IT IS SO ORDERED.
11	
12	DATED: September 24, 2009
13	IRMA E. GONZALEZ, Chief Judge
14	United States District Court
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	

28

- 3 - 09cv0556